

# *Proclamation*

## *Presented to*

### **The Ket-On Society**

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** educates Hawai'i's citizens about the Qing Dynasty ruling China for 268 years from 1644 to 1912, and how several "secret" organizations were created to overthrow the Qing Dynasty, including the **Hong Men's** "Heaven and Earth" Society, one of the most powerful created to re-establish the Ming Dynasty, which under Dr. Sun Yat-Sen became the main force in overthrowing the Qing Dynasty; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** reminds us that the **Hong-Men** are derived from the Ming Dynasty's self-anointed title, symbolizing the brotherhood of all **Hong-Men** members; and the phrase, "Heaven and Earth" represented the Sky Father and Earth Mother, symbolizing the dedication of its members and their unified spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** promotes the history of **Hong-Men** and how they identified themselves with the concept of loyalty that is embodied in the **Peach Garden Story**, a story sent during the Three Kingdoms period (220-265 A.D.) in which three friends swore to be brothers in a peach garden pledging that "even though we weren't born on the same day, we hope to die together at the same moment," and how that same concept of loyalty has been adopted by the **Ket-On Society**; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** was formed in 1859 in Kaneohe as a Hawai'i Chapter of the **Hong Men** and its first Honolulu clubhouse was built on Kukui Street in the early 1900's; later relocated to Maunakea Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** was joined on January 11, 1904 by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, who a few weeks earlier, on December 14, 1903 spoke to a thousand Chinese residents of Honolulu who filled the American Theater (the current site of Maunakea Market Place) urging them to join the movement to overthrow the Qing Dynasty; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** celebrates Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and his efforts to change the face of the Society by becoming its inspirational leader, challenging members to improve the quality and standards of the Chinese community; and how he inspired them to achieve that goal by excelling in education, and experiencing knowledge in diverse areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** continues today to preserve and honor the culture, traditions, and values that have been passed down from generation to generation from three centuries ago; promoting the principles of Benevolence, Relief, Charity, Justice, and Fidelity; and the Society's active role in charitable, scholarship and community service programs;


**WHEREAS**, the **Ket-On Society** will have celebrating its 152th Anniversary at a Banquet on May 14, 2011;


**THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i,** do hereby proclaim May 14, 2011 as

## **"KET-ON SOCIETY DAY"**

in Hawai'i, and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to celebrate the rich history of the **Hong-Men**, and the contributions of the **Ket-On Society** and Dr. Sun-Yat Sen to our communities.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this tenth of May, 2011.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
BRIAN SCHATZ  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i